## U.S. – Belize Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty Press Release

The Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty between Belize and the United States entered into force on July 2, 2003, when Ambassador Lisa Shoman and Acting Assistant Secretary of State J. Curtis Struble exchanged Instruments of Ratification for the Treaty in a short ceremony at the State Department in Washington. The treaty, which was signed on September 19, 2000, facilitates the investigation and prosecution of crime through cooperation and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, and enhances the effectiveness of Belize's extradition treaty with the United States.